

OPPRESSED AND FORGOTTEN PEOPLES

CONCLUSIONS

considering the links that exist between the economic under-developmment, that strangles the Third World countries, and the political and military oppression that often has brutal dimensions;

Considering also that the links between political and military oppression consisting sometimes on the simple refusal of a peoples' right to exist, are usually neglected or forgotten;

The Christian Movement for Peace organised in Strasbourg, at the European Youth Centre, from the 22nd to the 29th of April, a study session on the subject "oppressed and forgotten peoples". thirty participants from 10 countries (Belgium, Great Britain, Israel(Palestine), Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Federal republic of Germany, Democratic Arab Saharian Republic, Switzerland) studied and analised, in the frame of the public campaign on the North/South Interdependency and solidarity, four cases, among others, that are examples of oppression at all levels of a people by another(s): East Timor, Western Sahara, Namibia, Palestine.

East Timor

The drama that affects the timorese people after the indonesian invasion in 1975, has been carried out under the silence of most nations and international authorities. One third of the population is reported to have been killed. However, the timorese people show no sign of defeat or surrender to indonesian intentions of integrating them in Indonesia.

Their right to self-determination ought to be recognised by all nations and all efforts must be made to stop the genocide carried out by the indonesian troops. Silence must not continue to be the best ally of Indonesia.

West-Sahara

victim of moroccan invasion, the people of West Sahara carries on a major struggle for survival under the most difficult conditions of life. In the meanwhile their territory is being stripped of its mineral and fishing resources. the recognition of the independence of their republic must be followed by efforts to settle peace in the frame of the UAO and UN resolutions.

Namibia

Victim of South Africa's violation of all international law principles, the Namibian people suffers repression at home and outside. The exploitation of their natural resources from which most western countries profit is followed by physical and cultural oppression by the south african occupation army. The continuing of their oppression is a shame to all the International Community.

Palestine

Deprived for decades from the right to self-determination, the palestinian people is also being deprived from living free and peacefully in their own lands. Since 1948, and later after 1967, the israeli military occupation has only increased the suffering of this people. The uprisings that take place now, confirm that the will of living free and independent is legitimate and genuine.

The participants express their solidarity and worries towards these four peoples, concluding that:

All these cases are a result of colonialist situations.

The oppression and repression that they suffer are a consequence of the injustice that rules over the economic and and political relations between the North and the South.

The North/South relations are very complex and cover several international aspects. Afterwards, the main point on these relations is the unbalance of power between the North and the South.

In fact, for historical reasons, the countries of the North are in control of most part of the financial and technological resources. This situation leaves the southern countries in a position of total political and economic dependency towards the North. In these conditions the northern countries abstain of all sort of positive intervention in the resolution of regional conflicts in order to keep and preserve their economic and political interests, and their control of international relations.

whether it be in Namibia, Plestine, East Timor or West Sahara, The countries of the North abstain of all interference, thus allowing the continuing of injustice and violence towards the peoples in question.

That's why it is necessary to work out the necessary means in order to establish a balance in international relations on the economical level, at one side, and put an end to colonial practices, on the other.

in order to bring peace to these peoples it is urgent that the arms sales to the oppressein countries be put to an end. No peace agreements can be truly achieved but with the participation of the peoples concerned and their legitimate representants: FRETILIN, POLISARIO, SWAPO, PLO.

All measures aiming at the change of the (inter) dependency system between the North and the South must consider a change of the political relations between the countries of the North and oppressing, brutal and corrupt regimes in the South that are usually supported by the system of axpolitation based in the North.

All measures, all changes, cannot be worked out without the full respect of the cultural, social and economic specificities of each people, specifities that usually are not taken into account by the traditional notion of "Third World".
